GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2534
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Starvation
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports have been received indicating that despite being self reliant in the foodgrains production, the number of people starving in the country is more than that of China;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps being taken by the Government to resolve this issue;
(c) whether wastage of crores of tonnes of foodgrains in Government godowns has been identified as one major reason for this situation; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) & (b) According to Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nation (FAO's) "The State of Food Insecurity of the World" report (SOFI) of 2015, India has 194.6 million undernourished people during the period 2014-16, but this is a large reduction from 1990-1992 figure of 210.1 million. Moreover, the proportion of undernourished in the total population was reported at 15.2 percent, down from 23.7 percent in 1990-1992. FAO has reported that the number of undernourished people in China was 133.8 million in 2014-16.
Government has enacted the National Food Security Act (NSFA) which provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving highly subsidised foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The Act also contains provisions for supply of nutrition meals, free of cost, to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age.
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...2...
(c) & (d) Foodgrains conforming to prescribed norms are procured for central pool and stored in scientific manner in cover and CAP (cover and plinth) storage. All precautionary measures are taken for safe storage of foodgrains to avoid damage. Inspite of all precautions, some quantity of pests' attack, exposure to rain, floods, negligence on the part of concerned person in taking precautionary measures etc. The losses due to damaged grain have been reduced over the last 3 years as per the position given in Annexure-I.
Besides damaged grains, some operational losses i.e. storage & transit losses may occur mainly due to loss of moisture, multiple handling, longer period of storage and long distance transportation of foodgrains. For proper monitoring of storage & transit losses, annual targets are fixed for FCI under Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Storage & transit losses reported during 2013-14 to 2015-16 vis-Ã -vis MOU targets in Food Corporation of India (FCI) are given in Annexure-II.
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ANNEXURE-I
ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2534 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 2ND AUGUST, 2016 IN THE LOK SABHA
The foodgrains approved as damaged in FCI for last 3 years
(Qty. in lakh tons)
Year
Accrued Quantity of Damaged foodgrains
Off-take quantity (excluding DCP States)
% Damaged foodgrains against off-take quantity
2013-14
0.247
523.16
0.047
2014-15
0.188
501.75
0.037
2015-16
0.03
490.15
0.006
ANNEXURE-II
ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2534 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 2ND AUGUST, 2016 IN THE LOK SABHA Storage and Transit losses from 2013-14 to 2015-16
Storage losses:
YEAR

MOU Targets as a % of total stock received & issued during the year
% of loss
2013-14*
0.22
0.17
2014-15*
0.21
-0.01
2015-16**
0.15
-0.06
Note: (1) (*) indicates Audited Figures (**) indicates Provisional Figures (Commodity includes Wheat, Rice & Paddy).
(2) (-) Minus indicates GAIN.
Transit losses:
YEAR
MOU Targets (%)
% of loss
2013-14*
0.43
0.46
2014-15*
0.45
0.43
2015-16**
0.42
0.38
Note: (*) indicates Audited Figures (**) indicates Provisional Figures (Commodity includes Wheat, Rice & Paddy).
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